

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, between the Title and the first paragraph, insert the following new paragraph:

-- CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a National Stage entry of International Application Number PCT/JP2004/015276, filed October 15, 2004. The disclosure of the prior application is hereby incorporated herein in its entirety by reference. –

Page 1, paragraph beginning at line 4:

This invention relates to a stage device. This invention is suitable particularly for a stage device including two ~~drive sources~~ linear motors that respectively cause two moving bodies to be movable in one axis direction, a guide member for guiding at least one of the two moving bodies, and a beam laid between the two moving bodies so as to be moved along with the two moving bodies.

Page 5, paragraph beginning at line 10:

A stage device according to this invention comprises a surface plate, two ~~drive sources~~ linear motors for respectively moving two moving bodies in one axis direction on the surface plate, a guide member for guiding at least one of the two moving bodies in the one axis direction, and a beam laid between the two moving bodies so as to be orthogonal to the guide member and to be moved along with the two moving bodies.

According to an aspect of this invention, the stage device further comprises two position sensors for respectively detecting positions of the two moving bodies, two origin

sensors for respectively defining origin positions of the two moving bodies, and a controller for, responsive to detection signals from the two position sensors and the two origin sensors, controlling the two ~~drive sources~~ linear motors to thereby perform a position control of the two moving bodies. The controller has a yaw axis rotation control function of individually controlling the two ~~drive sources~~ linear motors to thereby rotate the beam about a yaw rotation axis perpendicular to the one axis direction. Based on the yaw axis rotation control function, the controller performs, at the time of starting the stage device, a control of maintaining an orthogonality of the beam with respect to the guide member within a predetermined range even when the orthogonality of the beam with respect to the guide member changes.

Page 8, paragraph beginning at line 5:

The gist of this invention resides in that even when a stage device is started again after continuous operation thereof, an orthogonality of a beam with respect to a guide rail can be maintained within a predetermined set range. Therefore, this invention is applicable to a stage device comprising a surface plate, two ~~drive sources~~ linear motors that respectively cause two moving bodies to be movable in one axis direction, a guide member for guiding at least one of the two moving bodies, and a beam laid between the two moving bodies so as to be moved along with the two moving bodies. Naturally, this invention is also applicable to a stage device having a structure where two moving bodies are respectively guided by two guide members extending in parallel to each other in one axis direction. That is, this invention is also applicable to the stage device disclosed in Document 1 and described with reference to Figs. 1(a) and 1(b) or

the stage device disclosed in Document 2. Note that deformation of a beam that raises an issue about the orthogonality in this invention is a deformation amount in the plane parallel to an upper surface of a surface plate.

Page 18, paragraph beginning at line 16:

While this invention has been described in terms of the preferred embodiment, this invention is not limited to the foregoing embodiment. In the stage device according to the foregoing embodiment, the two moving bodies 4 and 5 connected by the beam 6 are respectively guided by the two guide members 2 and 3 each extending in one axis direction and the other moving body 14 is installed on the beam 6. However, this invention is also applicable to a stage device having a structure with no other moving body 14, wherein two moving bodies connected by a beam are respectively guided by two guide members each extending in one axis direction. In this case, the table for placing thereon a member to be processed is combined with the beam 6. Further, this invention is also applicable to a stage device having a structure comprising two drive sources linear motors that respectively cause two moving bodies to be slidable in one axis direction on a surface plate, wherein only one of the two moving bodies is guided by a guide member extending in the one axis direction. Naturally, a beam is laid between the two moving bodies so as to be orthogonal to the guide member and movable along with the two moving bodies.